

## **REMARKS**

**[0003]** Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are presently pending. Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18 and 20 are amended herein.

### **Statement of Substance of Interview**

**[0004]** Examiner Osman graciously talked with me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—on July 31, 2008. Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner’s willingness to talk. Such willingness is invaluable to both of us in our common goal of an expedited prosecution of this patent application.

**[0005]** During the interview, I discussed how the claims differed from the cited references. Without conceding propriety of the rejections and in the interest of expediting prosecution, I also proposed several possible clarifying amendments.

**[0006]** Examiner Osman was receptive to the proposals, and I understood the Examiner to tentatively concur that the proposed clarifying claim amendments appeared to overcome 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections, and helped to distinguish over the cited references.

**[0007]** Applicant herein amends the claims in the manner discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references of record for at least the reasons discussed during the interview.

### **Formal Request for an Interview**

**[0008]** If the Examiner’s reply to this communication is anything other than allowance of all pending claims, then I formally request an interview with the Examiner.

I encourage the Examiner to call me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—so that we can talk about this matter so as to resolve any outstanding issues quickly and efficiently over the phone.

**[0009]** Please contact me to schedule a date and time for a telephone interview that is most convenient for both of us. While email works great for me, I welcome your call as well. My contact information may be found on the last page of this response.

### **Claim Amendments**

**[0010]** Without conceding the propriety of the rejections herein and in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claims 1-4, 6-16, 18 and 20 herein. Applicant amends claims to clarify claimed features. Such amendments are fully supported by the Application and are made to expedite prosecution and more quickly identify allowable subject matter. Such amendments are merely intended to clarify the claimed features, and should not be construed as further limiting the claimed invention in response to the cited references.

## **Formal Matters**

**[0011]** This section addresses any formal matters (e.g., objections) raised by the Examiner.

### **Specification**

**[0012]** The Examiner objects to paragraphs 1 and 25 of the specification for failing to provide a Patent Application Serial Number for a related case. Herein, Applicant amends these paragraphs, as shown above, to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

### **Drawings**

**[0013]** The Examiner objects to Fig. 4 for failing to show “YES” and “NO” branches. Herewith, Applicant submits a replacement drawing to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

## **Substantive Matters**

### **Claim Rejections under § 101**

**[0014]** Claims 10-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Furthermore, in light of the amendments presented herein and decisions/agreements reached during the above-discussed Examiner interview, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims comply with the patentability requirements of §101 and that the §101 rejections should be withdrawn.

**[0015]** If the Examiner maintains the rejection of these claims, then Applicant requests additional guidance as to what is necessary to overcome the rejection.

### **Claim Rejections under § 103**

**[0016]** Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,813,690 to Lango et al. (“Lango”), U.S. Patent No. 7,203,356 to Gokturk et al. (“Gokturk”), and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0098502 to Xu et al. (“Xu”).

**[0017]** In light of the amendments presented herein and the decisions/agreements reached during the above-discussed Examiner interview, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot. Accordingly, Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw these rejections.

**[0018]** Independent claim 1, as amended, recites (with emphasis added):

1. A method of communicating object data requested by an instant messaging application executed on an instant messaging platform, the method comprising:

generating, *at a client computing device running the instant messaging application*, a unique hash value of a fixed length based on the object data, *the object data representing a remote user in the instant messaging application* and comprising metadata descriptive of the object data, wherein the metadata comprises:

...

*a type field indicating an object type which has been previously selected by the remote user to uniquely represent the remote user during future sessions of the instant messaging application;*

*storing the object data at a location in the local cache of the client computing device, wherein the location of the object data in the local cache corresponds to the hash value; and*

returning an object name of the object data to the instant messaging application, the object name comprising the hash value and the location field and enabling access of the object data in the local cache by the instant messaging application without the object data being altered at the client computing device.

**[0019]** In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner indicated that Lango teaches a method for communicating object data comprising:

generating a hash value based on object data, wherein the object data includes metadata descriptive of the object data (column 16 lines 1-18 & 27-29, Lango discloses an object identifier is a generated hash value of an object name which is a concatenation of descriptive information (i.e. metadata)), and

wherein the metadata includes a type field indicating an object type which has been previously selected by a user of a local computer (column 15 lines 26-34 and column 16 lines 1-18, Lango discloses that the descriptive information includes information indicating media type, requested by a user);

storing the object data at a storage location (column 14 lines 4-13, Lango discloses storing the objects in a cache),

wherein the object data at the storage location is represented by an object name having the hash value and a location identifier identifying the storage location (column 15 lines 26-30 and column 16 lines 21-29, Lango discloses the object identifier (i.e. name) including URL data (i.e. location data) and is a hashed value of an object name); and

returning the object name having the hash value and the location identifier identifying the storage location to the user (column 15 lines 43-45, Lango discloses communicating object numbers (i.e. object names) to a client),

the object name enabling the user to access the object data including the object type which has been selected by the user (column 16 lines 1-5 & 27-29, Lango discloses that the object numbers are generated into object names the into object identifiers to enable access of an object requested by a user (column 15 lines 22-23)).

**[0020]** In light of the amendments presented herein and the decisions/agreements reached during the above-discussed Examiner interview, Applicant submits that these

rejections are moot. In particular, Lango fails to teach one or more emphasized features in amended claim 1.

**[0021]** Lango is directed to techniques for caching media data, including streaming media data, using content-sensitive identifiers in a client/server architect. In particular, Lango teaches content-sensitive identifiers enabling a caching proxy or a caching server to unambiguously determine version or contents of media data cached by the caching proxy for a particular data pointer or data reference (e.g., a URL) such that an appropriate version of the media data can be server to a requesting client system in an efficient and economical manner. (Lango, Abstract). However, Lango is completely silent with respect to at least the emphasized features in amended claim 1.

**[0022]** For example, the feature “generating, *at a client computing device running the instant messaging application*, a unique hash value of a fixed length based on the object data, *the object data representing a remote user in the instant messaging application*” is absent in Lango (with emphasis added). Instead, Lango provides that:

Caching server 104 then generates an object name string for each object number identified in step 608 (step 610). As described above with respect to FIG. 4, according to an embodiment of the present invention, each object name string is generated by concatenating strings pertaining to information that uniquely identifies the version of the requested media data stored by the objects.

(Lango at col.16, lines 1-7 with emphasis added).

**[0023]** Lango further teaches a caching server as follows:

Caching server 104 is configured to receive media data requests from client systems 106. Upon receiving a data request, caching server 104 determines if the media data requested by the data request is stored or cached by the

caching server. If the requested data is cached by caching server 104 (i.e., a cache hit), the cached data is communicated to the requesting client system. If caching server 104 determines that the requested data is not cached by caching server 104 (i.e., a cache miss), caching server 104 requests the data corresponding to the data request from media data server 102 and then delivers the data to the requesting client system, while caching the data.

(Lango at col.5, lines 55-66).

**[0024]** Applicant herein submits that the Caching server of Lango is different from “a client computing device” of amended claim 1 at least because the caching server of Lango receives media data request from client systems and generates strings pertaining to information that uniquely identifies the version of the requested media data whereas the “client computing device”, as recited in amended claim 1, runs an instant messaging application and generates a unique hash value based on an object data that represents a remote user in the instant messaging application. In other words, the caching server of Lango and the “client computing device” run different applications to serve different purposes in different scenarios.

**[0025]** Moreover, the feature “storing the object data at a location in the local cache of the client computing device, wherein the location of the object data in the local cache corresponds to the hash value” is also absent in Lango. Lango teaches hashing an object name string to generate an object identifier corresponding to the object name string as follows:

Each object name string configured in step 610 is then hashed to generate an object identifier (or object key) corresponding to the object name string (step 612). Since object name strings are content-sensitive, the object identifiers generated in step 612 are also content-sensitive. According to an embodiment of the present invention, the object name string generated in step 610 is hashed using the MD5 hashing algorithm to generate an object



identifier.

Caching server system 104 then searches the cache entry hash table to determine if the object identifiers generated in step 612 are stored in the cache entry hash table (i.e., if object identifiers matching the object identifiers generated in step 612 are stored in the cache entry hash table) (step 614). If caching server 104 determines that matching object identifiers are stored in the cache entry hash table, it indicates that the current version of media data requested by the user is stored in cache 110 of caching server system 104. The object handle (or file handle if the object is stored as a file) mapping to each matching object identifier (or filename if the object is a file) in the cache entry hash table is then used to retrieve the corresponding object from cache 110 (step 616). Media data stored by the retrieved objects is then served or communicated to the requesting client system 106 (step 618).

(Lango at col.5, lines 55-66).

However, Lango does not teach “location of the object data in the local cache corresponds to the hash value.” Instead, according to Lango, the hashed object name strings (or the object identifiers) are merely used by the caching server to determine whether current version of requested media data corresponding to the object identifiers is stored in cache of the caching server system. Once the caching server confirms, an object handle mapping to each of the matching object identifiers is used to retrieve corresponding object from cache. In other words, Lango only provides retrieving corresponding object based on an object handle. Nowhere in Lango discloses or suggests “location of the object data in the local cache corresponds to the hash value.”

**[0026]** Gokturk does not remedy deficiency of Lango. Gokturk is directed to applying three-dimensional position information to segment objects in a scene viewed by

a three-dimensional camera. Gokturk, however, is completely silent with respect to at least the features presented above.

**[0027]** Since neither Lango nor Gokturk discloses, teaches or suggests the emphasized features in amended claim 1, a combination of both would not render the emphasized features of amended claim 1 obvious. Therefore, amended claim 1 is respectfully asserted patentable over Lango and Gokturk.

**[0028]** Claims 10 and 16 are amended herein to incorporate similar features, and therefore are also asserted patentable over Lango and Gokturk for at least the reasons given above with reference to amended claim 1.

### **Dependent Claims**

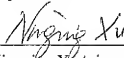
**[0029]** In addition to its own merits, each dependent claim is allowable for the same reasons that its base claim is allowable. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of each dependent claim where its base claim is allowable.

## Conclusion

**[0030]** All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the **Examiner is urged to contact me before issuing a subsequent Action.** Please call or email me or my assistant at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

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